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ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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November 9, 2005

The Honorable Robert Mueller, III
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigations
935 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Mr. Director:

I am writing to request a briefing at the appropriate time about your investigation into possible absentee voter fraud in the November 8, 2005, election in Detroit. In addition, I am requesting that you initiate an investigation into recent allegations of Republican intimidation of minority voters in Detroit.

News accounts report that the Department of Justice is investigating absentee balloting improprieties. The *Detroit News* reported allegations that incapacitated residents were being coaxed to vote, and that absentee ballots were arriving from abandoned nursing homes and vacant lots. The *News* reported that the Department of Justice had obtained a court order before the polls closed yesterday, which required the city to preserve all absentee ballots and other records from the City Clerk's absentee voting drive. The possibility that my constituents were taken advantage of for the purpose of influencing the outcome of an election is a serious and troubling matter. At the same time, I do not wish to interfere with an ongoing investigation and I would, therefore, appreciate a briefing of your investigation at a time you deem to be appropriate.

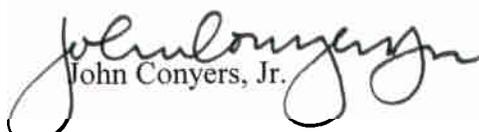
I am equally troubled about recent allegations of voter intimidation, especially with respect to minority voters. According to the NAACP, GOP monitors were harassing voters in at least 19 polling places. The NAACP filed a lawsuit in a federal district court, charging that GOP workers were violating state laws preventing poll challengers from talking to voters, and also that the poll watchers were challenging the eligibility of some voters to cast ballots. While U.S. District Judge Gerald Rosen ordered all political parties to refrain from talking to voters, this is a serious matter that should be investigated by the FBI immediately and I request that you do so.

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If there is any issue that is central to our democracy, it is ensuring that eligible voters are able to participate in our elections free from partisan interference. Both of these allegations raise substantial questions about whether all Detroit voters were afforded this basic and fundamental right. I urge you to consider these allegations and initiate an investigation into these matters.

If you have any questions, please contact my staff through the House Judiciary Committee Democratic office, 2142 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515, (tel: 202-225-6504; fax: 202-225-4423).

Sincerely,



John Conyers, Jr.

cc: The Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.